

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4-7, 9-11, 15 and 16, and cancel claim 2 without prejudice, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Method to reproduce, on at least one client terminal, at least one data flow comprising a plurality of encoded entities, each associated with at least one composition time stamp, said method comprising steps ~~comprising consisting of~~:

- decoding said encoded entities flow(s), so as to obtain ~~at least one decoded flow comprising~~ a plurality of decoded entities;

- composing said decoded entities, at the times defined by said composition time stamps,

~~wherein characterised in that~~, for at least one of said encoded entities, said decoding step is anticipated with respect to said composition time stamp, if a composition context associated with said encoded entity is identical to a current composition context ~~verifies at least one predetermined criterion~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Reproduction method according claim 1, characterised in that said entities decoded by anticipation are stored in memory by said client terminal until said composition step.

4. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that, in the case of a negative comparison between said composition context associated with said encoded entity and said current composition context, said encoded entity is stored in memory in said client terminal, and said decoding step is implemented at said time defined by said associated composition time stamp.

5. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that, for at least some of said entities decoded by anticipation, ~~said~~ comparison between said composition context associated with said encoded entity and said current composition context step is repeated, prior to said composition step, and said composition step is implemented when ~~said-second a~~ repeated comparison is positive.

6. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to claim 5, characterised in that, when ~~said-second a~~ repeated comparison is negative, said method implements an error handling step.

7. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to claim 1, characterised in that a decoding order data item is also associated with at least ~~east~~ some of said encoded entities.

8. (Original) Reproduction method according to claim 7, characterised in that said decoding order data item is a decoding time stamp.

9. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to ~~any of~~ claim 1, characterised in that said data flow belongs to the group consisting of ~~comprising~~:

- video flows;
- description flows of a graphic scene with at least two dimensions;
- audio flows;
- description flows of an object with at least two dimensions;
- animation flows of at least one object; and
- metadata description flows.

10. (Currently Amended) Reproduction method according to claim 1, characterised in that the format of said encoded entities belongs to the group consisting of ~~comprising~~:

- MPEG media formats;
- MPEG-7 data description formats;
- BIFS scene description formats; and
- H26L formats.

11. (Currently Amended) Device to reproduce at least one data flow comprising a plurality of encoded entities, each associated with at least one composition time stamp, said device comprising:

- means to decode said encoded entities flow(s), making it possible to obtain ~~at least one decoded flow comprising~~ a plurality of decoded entities; and

- means to compose said decoded entities, implemented at the times defined by said composition time stamps,

wherein ~~characterised in that~~, for at least one of said encoded entities, said decoding means are activated prior to said composition time stamp, if a composition context associated with said encoded entity is identical to a current composition context ~~verifies at least one predetermined criterion.~~

12. (Original) Reproduction device according to claim 11, characterised in that it also comprises:

- a decoding buffer memory, wherein said encoded entities are stored in increasing order of decoding;

- a composition buffer memory, wherein said decoded entities are stored in memory.

13. (Original) Device according to claim 12, characterised in that said decoded entities are stored in memory in said composition buffer memory in increasing composition time stamp order.

14. (Original) Device according to claim 12, characterised in that said decoded entities are stored in memory in said composition buffer memory in increasing order of decoding.

15. (Currently Amended) System to transmit at least one data flow from a data server to at least one client terminal,

said server comprising means to encode said data flow, in the form of a plurality of encoded entities, each associated with at least one composition time stamp,

said client terminal comprising:

- means to decode said encoded entities flow(s), making it possible to obtain ~~at least one decoded flow comprising~~ a plurality of decoded entities;

- means to compose said decoded entities, implemented at the times defined by said composition time stamps,

~~wherein characterised in that~~, for at least one of said encoded entities, said decoding means are activated prior to said composition time stamp, if a composition context associated with said encoded entity is identical to a current composition context ~~verifies at least one predetermined criterion.~~

16. (Currently Amended) Method comprising:

producing a signal ~~Signal~~ representing a data flow intended to be reproduced by at least one reproduction device according to claim 11, said signal being available at the output of said decoding means and supplying said composition means of said device, wherein said signal characterised in that it comprises a plurality of entities of said flow, each comprising:

- a composition time stamp;

- an *isdecod* marker, specifying whether said entity was decoded in an anticipated manner;

and, when said *isdecod* marker takes a first value, said entity is in encoded form and, when said *isdecod* marker takes a second value, said entity is in decoded form and also comprises:

- data items, referred to as *presStruct*, relating to a reproduction structure of said entity;

- data items, referred to as *decodInfo*, relating to the decoding of said entity.